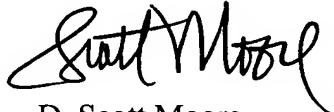


#### REMARKS

The specification has been amended to claim priority to the identified PCT, European, and US provisional patent applications, and to amend the claims and specification to better conform to U.S. practice.

Please enter this amendment prior to calculating the fee in this case. Applicants respectfully request substantive examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



D. Scott Moore  
Registration No. 42,011

**Customer No. 20792**

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec  
P. O. Box 37428  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627  
Telephone: (919) 854-1400  
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

Express Mail Label No. EV 473660610 US

Date of Deposit: December 30, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop PCT, Attn: DO/EO/US, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Susan E. Freedman

Date of Signature: December 30, 2004